



1135473

TARGET SHEET
EPA REGION VIII
SUPERFUND DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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SITE NAME: LIBBY ASBESTOS

DOCUMENT DATE: 01/01/1111

DOCUMENT NOT SCANNED

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

1 CD - ECON DEV

A Few Words about Economic Development and Superfund

EPA's primary responsibility at Superfund sites is to protect human health and the environment. Economic redevelopment is also a valued component at all Superfund sites, and efforts are made across the country to address these needs, when appropriate opportunities arise and funding is available. While not in the Superfund law, it has recently become an important Superfund initiative.

EPA has done its best to recognize and be sensitive to the special concerns and needs of all Libby residents. We've looked for opportunities to work with citizens; businesses; community groups; local, State, and Federal elected officials; and others to identify ways that the investigation and remediation work being conducted by EPA could also serve to advance economic development within the community.

This level of cooperation between EPA and the community goes beyond that seen at typical Superfund sites. EPA's commitment to Libby is to complete a protective cleanup, minimize negative economic impacts to the community, and maximize public health and economic benefits to the community.

EPA has worked successfully with local Libby stakeholders to incorporate investigation and remediation efforts with economic development needs that are important to the community. The results of that support are also provided.





Direct Assistance and Support

The Need

Libby citizens and the business community felt that an economic development “event” was needed to “jump-start” the many opportunities for economic development that have been envisioned and started, but stalled for a variety of reasons. These opportunities needed to be restarted and nurtured at a grass roots level to be implemented successfully.

EPA’s Response - Economic Redevelopment Workshops

In response to this need, EPA facilitated and financially sponsored two very successful Economic Development workshops in 2003.

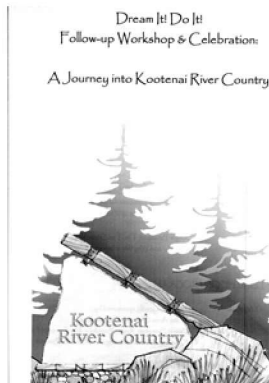


Dream It! Do It! April 2003

EPA funded and facilitated organization of the three-day *Dream It! Do It!* workshop. Local government, economic development groups, and citizens actively participated in identifying and obtaining speakers. There were 12, professionally-facilitated sessions, more than 30 speakers, and 220 attendees (including Senator Conrad Burns, Representative Dennis Rehberg, and nationally-known redevelopment speaker, Roger Brooks). Portions of the workshop were even carried live on local radio.

Dream It. Do It! II – November, 2003

The community response to the original workshop was so positive that local economic development groups organized and EPA financially sponsored a follow up event. This successful one-day workshop featured a return visit by Roger Brooks, an inspiring speaker on redevelopment, talking about developing a brand and marketing the town. More than 100 community members attended the workshop. The dynamic format involved all who attended and focused on the status of the Downtown Revitalization, Gateway Signs, Aquatic Center, Education, the Port Authority, and the Stimson Mill and Fiber Optics.



Results

The response to both of these workshops from the local community was very positive. For example:

- The workshops received positive press in the local media and a positive response from citizens.

